

**OFFICE OF STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
CALIFORNIA INPATIENT DATA REPORTING MANUAL,  
MEDICAL INFORMATION REPORTING FOR CALIFORNIA, FIFTH EDITION**

**DATE OF BIRTH**

**Section 97216**

***The patient's birth date shall be reported in numeric form as follows: the 2-digit month, the 2-digit day, and the 4-digit year of birth. The numeric form for days and months from 1 to 9 must have a zero as the first digit. When the complete date of birth is unknown, as much of the date as is known shall be reported. At a minimum, an approximate year of birth shall be reported. If only the age is known, the estimated year of birth shall be reported. If the month and year of birth are known, and the exact day is not, the year, the month, and zeros for the day shall be reported.***

**DISCUSSION**

Specifications for reporting this data element with the Record Entry Form for online web entry of individual records or online data file transmission for discharges occurring on or after January 1, 2006:

<b>2. DATE OF BIRTH</b>							
<i>Month</i>		<i>Day</i>		<i>Year (4-Digit)</i>			

**Critical Data Element:** If the reported date of birth is blank or invalid (such as February 30<sup>th</sup>) and is not corrected by the hospital after it is identified by OSHPD as an error, the entire discharge data record will be deleted.

**Four Digit Year:** Hospital medical record systems are expected to be Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant for discharges on or after January 1, 1999.

**Partial Dates of Birth:**

Please provide as much data as is available.

If the patient's month and day of birth are unknown, and the year is known, the month will be 00, the day will be 00, and the given year.

**Example:** The patient was born in 1948. Report the date of birth as 00001948.

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If the patient's month, day, and year of birth are unknown, and the patient's age is known, the patient's age at the time of admission will be subtracted from the year of admission to determine the year of birth.

Example: The patient is known to be 65 years old and the year of admission is 1997 ( $1997 - 65 = 1932$ ). The date of birth will be 00001932.

If the patient's day of birth is unknown, and the month and year are known, the day will be 00.

Example: The patient was born in November 1952. The date of birth will be 11001952.